



Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service

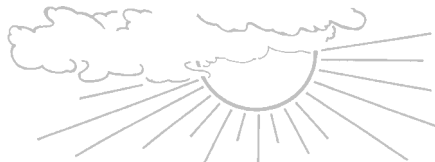
2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405

Marc Tosiano, State Statistician

NASS

A field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture



717-787-3904

Fax: 717-782-4011

nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

www.usda.gov/nass

Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending May 4, 2003

Excellent week for Field Work: There were 6 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 10 percent very short, 18 percent short, 64 percent adequate and 8 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included planting oats, corn, and potatoes; harvesting rye; plowing fields; hauling manure; spreading lime and fertilizer; spraying fields; repairing equipment and fences; and caring for livestock.

Crops: Pennsylvania saw the best week of the season thus far in terms of number of days suitable for field work. Some areas of the commonwealth received rain while other areas remained dry. All areas experienced above normal temperatures. The percent of spring plowing completed advanced to 63 percent, not surprising as farmers took advantage of the warm weather. The percent of oats planted jumped to 79 percent complete, up 26 percent from last week. Percent of oats planted was up 10 percent from 2002 and 6 percent ahead of the five-year average. Oats emerged increased to 35 percent, 18 percent behind 2002 and 8 percent behind the five-year average. The oat condition did not vary much from last week, with 4 percent rated as poor, 43 percent fair, 40 percent good and 13 percent excellent. The percent of corn planted increased dramatically as well, to 26 percent complete, up 21 percent from last week. The percent of corn planted is on pace with 2002 and the five-year average. The winter wheat condition improved, with 1 percent rated very poor, 4 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 53 percent good and 22 percent excellent. So far 14 percent of the winter wheat crop has headed, 5 percent ahead of both last year and the five-year average. Thirty-three percent of barley has headed, 29 and 16 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average, respectively. With dryer weather both the alfalfa and timothy clover condition improved slightly. Some farmers reported that frost damaged the tips of the hay crops, however. The alfalfa stand was rated as 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 52 percent good and 18 percent excellent. The timothy clover stand was rated as 4 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 63 percent good and 6 percent excellent.

Livestock: The pasture land in some areas was reported to be in top quality while other areas were in need of more rain. Pennsylvania's pasture land was rated 3 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 52 percent good and 11 percent excellent.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 4, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	Percent		
Spring plowing	63	73	66
Corn, planted	26	28	24
Barley, headed	33	62	49
Winter wheat, headed	14	9	9
Oats, planted	79	69	73
Oats, emerged	35	53	43
Potatoes, planted	29	29	29
Peaches, pink stage	95	0	79
Peaches, full bloom	87	0	76
Cherries, pink stage	79	0	78
Cherries, full bloom	57	0	77
Apples, pink stage	93	0	69
Apples, full bloom	74	0	63

Fruit & Vegetable: The percent of apple trees reaching the pink stage advanced to 93 percent, 18 percent ahead of last week and 24 percent ahead of the five-year average. Seventy-four percent of apple trees have reached the full bloom stage, about 11 percent ahead of 2002 and the five-year average. Seventy-nine percent of cherry trees have reached the pink stage, 7 percent ahead of last week and on pace with the five-year average. Although the percent of cherry trees in full bloom jumped to 57 percent, this was still 20 percent behind the five-year average. Eighty-seven percent of peach trees have reached the full bloom stage. The percent of potatoes planted advanced to 29 percent, up 19 percent from last week and on pace with 2002 and the five-year average.

U.S. As Of April 27, 2003: Highlights: Seasonally heavy rains fell in the Pacific Northwest. Rain also fell across the central Rockies and central Great Plains limiting fieldwork. Temperatures for the week were above normal. Spring planting was ahead of the average pace for all crops as good progress was made. Dry conditions continued in the Southwest from Southern California to the Texas Panhandle. Hot, windy conditions combined with depleted topsoil moisture minimized improvement in most areas from these rains. The southern Corn Belt received rain, but the northern Corn Belt, upper Great Plains, and upper Mississippi Valley continued to be dry. Ample rainfall was received over a wide swath including the Southeast, the Atlantic Coast, the Northeast, and New England. Southeast producers were behind on planting corn and soybeans due to wet soils. Field preparation and planting continued as weather permitted. Corn: Planting was 29 percent complete, 4 percentage points ahead of last year's pace and 6 points ahead of the 5-year average. The crop was 6 percent emerged, 1 point behind last year but equal to the 5-year average. Most of the Corn Belt made good planting progress during the week despite scattered showers, with most States advancing ahead of the 5-year average. Cold weather across Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania slowed emergence of early planted fields. Winter Wheat: Twenty-one percent of the Nation's winter wheat was headed, ahead of last year's pace and the 5-year average, of 20 percent. Fields quickly entered the heading stage in the southern Great Plains and lower Mississippi Valley despite below normal temperatures. Soybeans: Planting was 3 percent complete, equal to last year and the 5-year average. Planting activities were just getting underway in most of the Corn Belt, but not yet started in the northern Great Plains. Small grains: The barley crop was 41 percent seeded, compared with last year's 21 percent and the 5-year average of 31 percent. The crop was 12 percent emerged, 6 points ahead of last year and 2 points above the 5-year average. The oat crop was 52 percent seeded and 17 percent emerged. Planting was ahead of last year's pace of 41 percent seeded, while emergence was even with last year and the 5-year average pace. Producers in the central Great Plains continued to seed small grains despite scattered rain showers.

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 4, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter wheat	1	4	20	53	22
Oats	0	4	43	40	13
Alfalfa stand	1	2	27	52	18
Timothy clover stand	0	4	27	63	6
Pasture conditions	3	9	25	52	11

Weather Data For Week Ending May 4, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - May 4, 03					GDD BASE 40F TOT
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	
NORTHWEST												
Erie	79	39	53	+2	0.74	1	2.65	-1.02	8	107	+58	280
Franklin_AG	81	34	57	+6	0.60	5	3.04	-0.96	16	117	+69	335
Meadville	79	37	56	+6	0.48	1	3.24	-0.50	8	108	+72	318
Mercer	80	30	56	+5	0.24	2	2.27	-1.55	8	115	+65	323
Springboro	78	28	54	+3	0.68	3	3.78	+0.23	14	103	+49	283
Warren	82	33	55	+5	0.48	2	2.85	-1.16	12	84	+44	274
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Regi on	78	35	55	+8	0.65	3	3.58	-0.28	14	102	+80	280
Emporium	84	33	57	+9	0.56	2	3.39	-0.56	15	111	+84	328
Kane	78	24	50	+3	0.37	3	2.94	-1.18	12	36	+16	167
Laporte	74	35	54	+3	0.11	3	3.22	-0.53	17	61	+2	226
Lock_Haven	85	40	61	+9	0.20	1	2.59	-0.93	15	140	+75	373
Port_Allegany	82	31	53	+4	0.64	2	2.81	-0.78	11	70	+39	241
Renovo	87	37	59	+7	0.10	2	2.13	-1.39	16	131	+66	359
Ridgway	81	28	54	+6	0.61	3	1.96	-1.99	13	77	+50	272
Stevenson_Dam	84	34	56	+8	0.42	2	3.03	-0.92	16	91	+64	307
Towanda	80	35	55	+4	0.55	3	3.06	-0.28	17	73	+14	258
Well sboro	82	36	55	+8	0.26	3	2.66	-0.05	13	71	+47	235
Williamsport_AP	81	38	60	+7	0.11	1	2.93	-0.75	14	152	+59	385
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	79	31	55	+5	0.01	1	2.32	-1.59	12	58	+26	237
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	79	38	59	+7	0.30	3	2.42	-0.99	16	146	+75	357
Susquehanna	79	35	56	+7	1.03	2	4.23	+0.13	14	78	+51	268
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	82	30	58	+6	0.10	3	1.65	-2.03	12	156	+93	401
New_Castle	84	30	59	+8	0.49	2	2.17	-1.26	10	161	+111	409
Slippery_Rock	82	37	59	+8	0.72	2	2.74	-0.84	9	163	+120	408
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blair_C	84	40	60	+6	0.30	4	2.15	-1.46	19	169	+85	399
DuBois	79	37	57	+6	0.37	3	2.85	-0.97	16	149	+102	366
Lewistown	84	40	62	+8	0.20	2	1.87	-1.55	12	171	+64	414
Middletown	81	42	62	+6	0.46	2	2.96	-0.80	15	177	+49	425
Prince_Gallitz	81	31	57	+7	0.03	1	2.21	-2.63	10	131	+87	336
Selinsgrove	80	38	59	+6	0.22	2	3.14	-0.48	17	124	+43	350
State_College_P	84	44	61	+9	0.19	2	2.68	-0.65	15	161	+93	390
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	80	38	61	+6	0.11	2	2.09	-1.95	14	146	+50	374
Lehighton	78	37	59	+5	0.09	2	1.95	-1.84	16	107	+19	315
Matamoras	79	33	56	+4	0.03	1	1.62	-2.90	14	73	+4	250
Tobyhanna	81	38	59	+11	0.17	2	3.04	-1.59	13	119	+98	328
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	43	63	+9	0.03	2	3.13	-0.60	14	255	+170	529
Derry	84	32	59	+7	0.38	5	2.74	-1.01	17	173	+116	400
Meyersdale	77	30	54	+3	0.43	3	3.44	-1.07	17	90	+30	288
Mount_Pleasant	81	30	58	+7	0.44	4	2.71	-1.94	17	164	+122	413
Pittsburgh_Intl	82	40	61	+7	0.11	1	2.46	-1.13	13	242	+145	511
Rector	83	35	60	+9	0.59	4	2.65	-2.00	14	167	+125	409
Waynesburg	81	31	59	+6	0.64	5	2.79	-1.16	15	182	+108	442
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	79	40	62	+6	0.27	3	3.65	-0.19	17	169	+41	418
Everett	84	34	59	+6	0.42	3	4.45	+0.64	20	143	+70	384
Hanover	80	37	61	+5	0.05	1	2.73	-1.11	14	169	+41	418
Shippensburg	84	42	63	+7	0.34	3	3.11	-0.56	16	186	+52	443
South_Mountain	79	36	58	+5	1.05	3	3.71	+0.10	16	117	+37	326
York_AP	82	36	61	+5	0.04	2	2.13	-1.94	16	173	+41	420
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	82	39	62	+8	0.09	2	2.88	-1.34	17	159	+72	403
Hamburg	80	40	61	+9	0.01	1	2.51	-1.89	13	152	+89	382
Hopewell	78	37	59	+3	0.01	1	2.72	-1.50	13	126	-10	345
Lancaster_AP	77	39	60	+5	0.05	1	2.58	-1.33	13	150	+50	389
Neshaminy_Falls	81	45	63	+9	0.11	2	2.49	-2.06	15	167	+70	402
New_Holland	79	40	61	+6	0.27	3	2.75	-1.16	14	148	+48	380
Philadelphia	80	46	65	+8	0.32	2	2.57	-1.56	12	226	+82	491
Philadelphia_NE	81	43	63	+6	0.56	3	2.46	-1.67	14	192	+48	441
Reading_AP	79	40	62	+8	0.01	1	2.41	-1.96	15	173	+87	408
Valley_Forge_Na	82	36	60	+3	0.00	0	2.19	-2.03	11	124	-12	351
Willow_Grove	77	45	63	+8	0.04	2	1.80	-2.75	12	176	+79	412

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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INTERNET REPORTERS' COMMENTS, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service,
Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

"Some parts of the county received as much as 1 ½ inches of rain this week, which slowed farming activities briefly, but the rain was just what we needed to give the pastures and hayfields a push."

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

"All of the county received some much needed rain for the pastures and hay crops last week. Planting of corn has started, but may be delayed with rain forecast for today. Many fields of oats were planted."

- Lew Steckler, Erie County

"Very good conditions for field work this week."

- Harry Blanchet, Forest County

"Ground has become surprisingly dry in the last few weeks. Small grains have been planted and corn will be started this week. Winter Wheat has bare spots in the fields. Hay seems to be growing slow due to cold nights and lack of moisture."

- David Stratton, Potter/McKean/Cameron Counties

"Lots of field work being done. Ground moisture is getting low. We need some good steady rain storms to replenish topsoil moisture. Plowing fields of dust in many areas. Short rain interval helped oats, barley and alfalfa. Fields are green that have receive spring fertilizer. Corn planting is starting to progress. Would be better to have some moisture in order to get a jump start on germination."

- Pamela Barnes, Tioga County

"Overall the season is late. Fruit crop development is approximately one week behind 2002 "

- John Esslinger, Lackawanna County

"Cool and dry--need some rain. The rain we got on Thursday night was not enough. Getting ready to plant corn."

- Martin Whitmore, Clarion County

"A lot of plowing and planting (corn and potatoes) done this week. Showers were in the forecast but they never appeared."

- Dolly Little, Cambria County

"Great week for field work. Although clouds presented challenges and some showers came through, overall a good week for late April. Corn planters in planting mode. Rye harvest nearly completed. Minor infestations of alfalfa weevil continue to develop but no need for controls in most situations. Early maturing orchard grass starting to reach heading stage."

- Paul H. Craig, Dauphin County

"Some of our neighbors have corn planted. Everybody around here is saying how short the rye and hay fields are, but are maturing so fast and early first cutting must soon start. Rye is only about 8 inches tall and getting ready to shoot head. All the early grasses are also very short and nobody understands why. With all the rain we have gotten this spring and with early fertilizing, it should be much taller. Cows are on pastures a couple hours daily, but everybody is worried about running out early. This is starting out to be another bad year for dairy farmers again."

- Marina K, Huntington County

"An excellent spring. Fifty acres chisel plowed."

- Viola Pfleegor, Northumberland County

"Favorable weather last week allowed many farmers to catch up on field work that had been delayed because of cold, wet conditions."

- Bob Leiby, Lehigh County

"Extremely dry, warm weather this week with temperatures reaching into the 80's. Forecasts of rain never seem to materialize---most of the moisture dries up before reaching the area. The dryness is starting to affect plowing and spring planting operations. Oats being planted and manure being spread. Frost last week has done some damage to the tips of the hay crops and frost damage has occurred on nursery stock."

- Tom Sierzega, Washington County

Comments continued on next page.

“Only a trace of rainfall this week. The continued dry weather is making for excellent corn planting conditions. A few corn growers have most of the planting and spraying completed. Grass growth has slowed because of dry conditions. Alfalfa is still growing well and some could be ready for harvest by late next week.”

- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

Farm activities included chisel plowing, hauling manure, plowing, planting oats. Severe storms Thursday night caused erosion and flash flooding in many areas. Hail was also reported.”

- Ann Marie Meyer, Fulton County

“The rye is looking 80% excellent. The few oat acres in our area probably are also excellent.”

- Steve DeBroux, Berks County

“Finding Timothy mites in many fields. Some producers are spraying for control. Corn planting should be in full swing next week.”

- Mike Fournier, Bucks County

“Busy week working ground and planting and related operations. Alfalfa seeding just starting to emerge and most are looking good. Most of the rye has been put into the silo. Barley and other small grains moving along quickly.”

- Bob Anderson, Lancaster County

“Excellent week for field work. Lots of manure was hauled and lots of corn planted. Some even started planting soybeans. Pastures are lush.”

- Axel Linde, Lancaster County

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